

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method comprising:

retrieving data by one of a plurality of personal content
5 directors each associated with a separate local domain, the data
including a plurality of relative links;

translating the plurality of relative links into a
corresponding plurality of absolute links that collectively
point to the local domains associated with the plurality of
10 personal content directors; and

determining a most proximate local domain for a client
based on subsequent accesses to download data accessible through
the absolute links.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the determining of the
15 most proximate local domain, comprises:

transmitting the data to the client;

measuring return trip time values by the plurality of
personal content directors during the downloading of the data
accessible through the absolute links; and

20 reporting the return trip time values to the one of the
plurality of personal content directors.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein prior to reporting the
return trip time trip values, the method further comprising:

storing the return trip time values in a client network
25 cache of each of the plurality of personal content directors.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein prior to retrieving the
data, the method further comprises:

initiating a HTTP GET request by the client; and

routing the HTTP GET request to the one of the plurality of personal content directors.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the routing of the HTTP GET request is conducted by a domain name server.

5 6. The method of claim 2, wherein the measuring of the return trip time values by a first personal content director of the plurality of personal content directors includes computing a time difference between arrival of a HTTP GET request associated with a subsequent access to the first personal content director and arrival of a final acknowledgement packet at the first
10 personal content director.

7. A personal content director comprising:

an interface;

a memory; and

15 a processor in communication with both the interface and the memory, the processor to (i) retrieve a web page including a plurality of relative links in response to an initial request by a client and (ii) translate the plurality of relative links into a corresponding plurality of absolute links that collectively
20 point to a plurality of local domains, including a local domain associated with the personal content director, forming a global domain.

8. The personal content director of claim 7, wherein the memory includes a client network cache to store an Internet
25 Protocol (IP) address and subsequently measured return trip time (RTT) values for each local domain.

9. The personal content director of claim 7, wherein the processor measures a return trip time (RTT) value experienced during a downloading of data associated with an absolute link pointing to the local domain.

5 10. The personal content director of claim 9, wherein the processor further transmits the measured RTT value to a synchronizing personal content director.

11. The personal content director of claim 9, wherein the processor further receives at least one measured RTT value from another remotely located personal content director during a communication session.

12. The personal content director of claim 9, wherein the return trip time value is measured by computing a time difference between (1) an arrival of a HTTP GET request that caused retrieval of data associated with the absolute link of the web page pointing to the local domain of the personal content director and (2) arrival of a final acknowledgement packet at the personal content director.

13. A network comprising:

20 a client to transmit a request for retrieval of a web page; and

at least two personal content directors (PCDs) capable of being in communication with the client, a first PCD of the at least two PCDs to (i) retrieve the web page having a plurality of relative links, (ii) translate the relative links into corresponding absolute links that uniquely point to local domains associated with the at least two PCDS, (iii) transmit

the translated web page to the client, and (iv) measure a return trip time (RTT) value for handling a request to download data accessed by the absolute link directed to the local domain associated with the first PCD.

5 14. The network of claim 13, wherein a second PCD of the further measures a RTT value for handling a request to download data accessed by the absolute link directed to the local domain associated with the second PCD.

10 15. The network of claim 13, wherein the RTT value is measured by computing a time difference between (1) an arrival of the request to download data and (2) arrival of a final acknowledgement packet at the first PCD.

15 16. The network of claim 13 further comprising:
a domain name server to receive an initial request for retrieval of the web page and to route the initial request to the first PCD operating as a synchronizing PCD.17. The network of claim 14, wherein the second PCD of the at least two PCDS transmits the RTT value measured by the second PCD to the first PCD.

20 17. The network of claim 14, wherein the second PCD of the at least two PCDS transmits the RTT value measured by the second PCD to the first PCD.

25 18. The network of claim 17, wherein the first PCD determines a most proximate local domain to the client by comparing the RTT values measured by the at least two PCDS and selected the most proximate local domain being the local domain

associated with one of the at least two PCDs measuring a RTT value with the shortest duration.

19. The network of claim 13, wherein each the plurality of absolute links translated by the first PCD are tagged links
5 including a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) tag.

20. The network of claim 19 further comprising:

a switching device coupled to the at least two PCDs and in communication with the client, the switching device to detect the URL tag within the request to indicate that the request is
10 intended for measuring the RTT value.